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C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 002008

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TAGS: [KSUM](#) [SOC](#) [PGOV](#) [EC](#)

SUBJECT: FM PARRA TO CARACAS SOCIAL CHARTER EVENT, NOT TO RESIGN

REF: SECSTATE 154693

Classified By: PolChief Erik Hall for reasons 1.4 (b&d)

1. (C) PolChief conveyed reftel points to acting MFA U/S for Multilateral Affairs, Carmen Larrea on August 24.

2. (C) Larrea confirmed that FM Parra would attend the August 28 OAS Social Charter event in Caracas.

3. (C) According to Larrea, the GOE is in accord with the U.S. position that the Social Charter negotiation be by consensus, and led by the General Secretariat. She expressed understanding of USG concern that Chavez' initiative could risk breaking with good faith efforts to develop consensus. Nevertheless, she said, the GOE recognizes the GOV's long-standing interest and advocacy in favor of a Social Charter. She noted that the GOV had been inclusive in inviting all OAS nations to send representatives to Caracas.

4. (C) Larrea agreed that only a consensus document developed by the General Secretariat with input from all interested nations should serve as the basis for negotiations. She had briefed FM Parra before he left Quito (for a ministerial in Bariloche, then Caracas), and as far as she knew, he is in agreement with this position. Accordingly, Parra would not offer a GOE position on the Venezuelan proposal per se; instead, the GOE would consider all proposals and seek to advance the Charter negotiation through consensus building.

5. (C) Larrea also denied rumors that Parra was intending to resign, saying that as acting MFA spokesperson, she had confronted him about his intentions on August 23. Parra publicly denied the rumors on August 24, speaking to the Ecuadorian press from Argentina.

6. (C) Comment: While agreeing with our demarche points about process, we sense strong sympathy within the GOE (at least in the MFA) for the GOV proposal. Larrea admitted as much on a personal level, while acknowledging that the proposed charter was "utopic."

JEWELL